

via fax: 011 52 961 61 20917/ 25618 Lic. Pablo Salazar Mendiguchia Governor of Chiapas, Mexico	via fax: 011 52 55 51 28 02 34 Dr. Ricardo Sepulveda Director of Human Rights, Interior Ministry of Mexico
via fax: 011 52 961 61 657 24 Lic. Mariano Herrán Salvatti Attorney General of Chiapas, Mexico	

December 12, 2005

Dear Sirs:

Gustavo Jiménez Pérez was severely cut, kicked and beaten by six men armed with knives who stormed into his house and threatened to kill him on November 20, 2005. As he lay on the floor, they told him, "We have come to kill you." They left taking the television, the VCR and a backpack containing valuables, including an identification card and a bank card. After surprising another intruder in their house on November 22, they filed a complaint with the State Attorney General.

Gustavo Jiménez and his housemate, **Gabriel Ramírez Cuevas**, have recently been involved in exposing alleged official corruption in the distribution of humanitarian relief in the aftermath of Hurricane Stan. Both men are members of a grassroots organization promoting social activism called Alianza Cívica-Chiapas (Civic Alliance-Chiapas). The fear that both men are in grave danger is clearly justified.

In October, Enrique Zamora, director of the newspaper El Orbe in Chiapas, was detained overnight and harshly interrogated by police. His newspaper had reported allegations of official corruption in response to Hurricane Stan.

Social activists and human rights defenders have frequently been the target of threats, beatings and smear campaigns. Those responsible are rarely brought to justice. **The authorities must ensure that Gustavo Jiménez and Gabriel Ramírez will receive protection** in accordance with their wishes. Authorities must be reminded (yet again) that the UN Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of Individuals, groups and institutions to promote and protect universally recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Liberties recognizes the right of human rights defenders to carry out their activities without restrictions or fear of reprisals.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: Ambassador Carlos Alberto De Icaza Gonzalez, Embassy of Mexico ~ via fax: 1 202 728 1698
 Antonio O. Garza, Jr., U.S. Ambassador to Mexico ~ fax: 011 52 55 5511 9980
 William Duncan, Desk Officer for Mexico, US State Department ~ fax: 202.647.9894
 Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Bartolomé de las Casas ~ fax: 011 52 967 67 83551
 U.S. Senators DeWine and Voinovich
 U.S. Representatives Brown, Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

UA 295/05 Mexico

The following people hereby urge you to take action on this matter as indicated in this letter: